

HEALTH
A 22 APR 55
C.R. 41

1 Mr. B. M. B. Sw. 573
2 Library

A 4447(3) 7 1957

Rural District Council of Dartford



ANNUAL REPORT

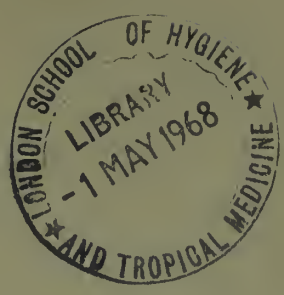
ON CERTAIN MATTERS
CONCERNING

Public Health

FOR THE YEAR

1953

67726



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DARTFORD

Annual Report for 1953 of the Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1954.

To THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DARTFORD.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to amplify the statistical material of the fifty-fifth annual report on the public health of the Rural District of Dartford.

PREVIOUS REPORTS. Accounts of the limitations of these reports, method of social classification, social conditions of the district, water supplies and drainage treatment and personal health services, age distribution of population, and a glossary have been given in previous reports and will not be repeated here.

POPULATION. The estimated mid-year home population increased by 360 on the previous year, thereby maintaining the mild upward trend of post-war years. Changes in the population are due to the natural increase, i.e. excess of births over deaths, and immigration, the latter being related in some degree to new houses built.

The following table may therefore be of interest:—

	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.
Est. mid-year home population.	34,700	35,640	36,150	35,890	36,870	37,520	38,250	38,610
Increase on previous year.	2,570	940	510	-260	980	650	730	360
Natural increase.	368	361	289	244	211	149	143	187
Immigration.	1,615	579	221	-504	769	501	587	173
Houses built.	227	147	168	173	281	292*	231	439

* 100 houses built by Dartford Borough.

BIRTHS. There were 25 more births than in the previous year and the birth rate, like that of England and Wales, showed a minute increase:—

	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.
Births	752	631	565	545	576	514	539
Birth rate	21.9	18.3	16.6	15.5	16.1	13.9	14.0
Birth rate (England and Wales)	20.5	17.8	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5

Of the 539 births, 361 were registered with the Local Registrars in Dartford, and from these 361 the following classification has been obtained:—

Born in West Hill Hospital.	189
Born in Livingstone Hospital	69
Born in Risely Hospital	58
Total born in hospital	316
Born at home	45
	361

The number of births occurring in neither Dartford Borough nor Dartford Rural District was 539 - 361 = 178 and this was a large increase on the figure for 1952.

which was 45. Apart from an increase from 9 to 18 of those born in Cray Valley Hospital, a search by Registrars from Gravesend to Farnborough has failed to reveal more than 6 of these away births. Presumably most of them occurred in Loddon Hospitals.

		1951	1952	1953
Born at home.	...	28%	26%	12%
Born in hospital	...	72%	74%	88%

In Bexley, Crayford, Erith, Dartford Borough and Rural District i.e. Area 6 of the Local Health Authority, the percentages given by the County Medical Officer of Health have been: -

		1951	1952	1953
Born at home	...	23%	22%	20%
Born in hospital	...	77%	78%	80%

The increase in the number of infants born in hospital is also seen in the Annual Reports of the Dartford Hospitals Group from which the following are taken:-

		West Hill Hospital	Livingstone Hospital	Riseley Maternity Hospital.	Total.
July 1948/1949	...	805	326	133	1,264
July 1949/1950	...	915	385	148	1,448
July 1950/1951	...	1,008	356	119	1,483
July 1951/1952	...	995	341	134	1,470
July 1952/1953	...	1,185	315	161	1,661
July 1953/1954	...	1,235	320	141	1,696

In Dartford Rural District the classification according to status was as follows:-

Social status of father		1953	1951	1952	1953
Class I	...	5	4%	3%	1%
Class II	...	45	11%	12%	13%
Class III	...	187	55%	49%	52%
Class IV	...	91	20%	24%	26%
Class V.	...	29	10%	12%	8%
		<hr/> 357	<hr/> 100%	<hr/> 100%	<hr/> 100%
Unclassified.	...	<hr/> 4			
		<hr/> 361			

DEATHS. In former years the only deaths in Stone House and Darenth Park Mental Hospitals allotted to Dartford Rural District were those whose home addresses were either in Dartford or were unknown. In the year 1952, the number allotted was 9. For the year 1953 a change in practice was begun and all deaths of patients in these hospitals were allotted to Dartford Rural District the allocations increasing thereby from 9 to 51. The increase which is not allowed for in the comparability factor will have to be separated from our total if we are to follow the trend of deaths in the rural district population. Taking the average quarterly figure for deaths in Stone House and Darenth Park allotted to Dartford Rural District prior to 1953 as 2, the following adjustment can be made: -

	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd. Qr.	4th Qr.	Year 1953
Total deaths allotted to Rural District by Reg. Gen.	138	91	69	97	395
Less deaths in Mental Hospitals	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>51</u>
Deaths excluding Mental Hospitals	122	74	64	84	344
Add	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>
Dartford Rural District deaths by former methods.	124	76	66	86	352

Annual deaths.	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Deaths	391	342	321	334	427	371	352
Death rate (Rural District)	10.9	9.5	9.0	9.2	11.4	9.7	9.0
Death rate (England and Wales)	12.3	11.0	11.8	11.6	12.5	11.3	11.4

Quarterly number of deaths: -

Year	1st. Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total.
1949	95	91	70	65	321
1950	101	76	89	68	334
1951	144	96	90	97	427
1952	118	81	60	112	371
1953	124	76	66	86	352

Quarterly death rates: -

Dartford Rural District:

Year.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Year.
1950	11.0	8.2	9.7	7.4	9.2
1951	15.3	10.2	9.6	10.3	11.4
1952	12.3	8.5	6.3	11.7	9.7
1953	12.9	7.8	6.6	8.8	9.0

England and Wales:

1950	14.0	11.1	9.3	12.3	11.6
1951	19.1	11.1	9.1	11.0	12.5
1952	13.4	10.6	8.9	12.4	11.6
1953.	15.8	10.5	8.9	10.7	11.4

The deaths at the ages of 65 and over, and 75 and over, were as follows: -

	65 and over	75 and over
1950 ,... ..	229 (69%)	145 (45%)
1951	278 (65%)	161 (38%)
1952	263 (71%)	161 (44%)
1953 *	260 (66%)	175 (44%)

* Including Stone House and Darenth Park.

The deaths in hospital and at home were: -

					All ages.		75 and over.	
					Hospital.	Home.	Hospital.	Home.
1950	...	...	...	...	126	207	51	94
1951	...	...	...	...	175	252	56	105
1952	...	...	...	...	171	200	60	101
1953 *	...	...	...	...	176	219	73	102

* Including Stone House and Darenth Park.

The social status of deaths, including Stone House and Darenth Park, was: -

				1950	1951	1952	1953
Grade I	...	...	...	11	3%	5%	3%
Grade II	...	...	...	75	15%	16%	21%
Grade III	...	...	...	119	32%	40%	32%
Grade IV	...	...	...	95	29%	25%	27%
Grade V	...	...	...	60	21%	14%	17%
Unclassified.	...	...	...	35			
				<u>395</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

CAUSES OF DEATH. The causes of death may be summarised: -

		1950	1951	1952	1953 *
All causes of death		336 (100%)	427 (100%)	371 (100%)	395 (100%)
Main causes of death		266 (79%)	349 (82%)	292 (79%)	322 (82%)
Other causes of death.		70 (21%)	78 (18%)	79 (21%)	73 (18%)
Main Causes of	((440-468) Diseases of circulatory system	138 (41%)	173 (41%)	128 (34%)	152 (39%)
of	((140-205) Cancer, including Hodgkin's disease, Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	68 (20%)	65 (15%)	70 (19%)	64 (16%)
Death.	((330-334) Vascular lesions affecting Central Nervous System.	34 (10%)	55 (13%)	55 (15%)	47 (12%)
	((470-527) Diseases of respiratory system.	26 (8%)	56 (13%)	39 (11%)	59 (15%)

* including Stone House and Darenth Park.

For the year 1953, the percentages of the main causes of death are similar to those of England and Wales.

CANCER OF THE LUNG. This caused 8 deaths in 1953. This gives a death rate of 0.2 compared with 0.34 for England and Wales and 0.51 for London.

CORONARY DISEASE. There were 50 deaths. Two were under 45 years of age. 7 were in social class V and 16 in social classes I and II. The death rate was 1.3 compared with 1.40 for England and Wales and 1.43 for London.

ALL OTHER ACCIDENTS. 10 deaths occurred from this cause compared with 5 in 1952. At least 4 were aged persons dying from accidents in the home.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES. The increase in deaths from respiratory diseases was due to an increase in the first quarter at the time of an influenza outbreak. (See below).

DEATHS RELATING TO WELFARE OF MOTHERS AND INFANTS. For the first time in 4 years, a death due to childbirth occurred. Inquiries into deaths from these causes are made by the Local Health Authority.

Still births dropped to 9, the figures for the previous years being 15 and 12. All of the 9 occurred in hospital. The still birth rate for 1953 was 16.4, the rate for England and Wales was 22.4.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age dropped from 17 in 1952 to 7 in 1953. The number is so small that it is no longer necessary to tabulate the details of these deaths. All occurred in hospital. Three, due to prematurity, occurred at ages up to 19 hours. Three deaths from foetal asphyxia, erythroblastosis foetalis and spontaneous pneumothorax respectively occurred before the age of 24 hours. The remaining death from congenital heart disease occurred at the age of 1 week. The mother of the erythroblastosis case had attended for ante-natal supervision and her blood had been grouped but the infant unfortunately collapsed during the pre-arranged replacement transfusion.

The infant mortality rate for 1953 was 13 compared with 26.8 for England and Wales.

DEATHS OF THOSE AGED 75 YEARS AND OVER Emphasis on respiratory disease in the first quarter is the notable feature of these deaths, the quarterly figures being: -

	1st. Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd. Qr.	4th Qr.	Year 1953.
All causes.	69	38	28	40	175
(440-468) Diseases of circulatory system.	31	20	7	21	79
(140-205) Cancer	3	-	7	5	15
(330-334) Vascular lesions affecting C.N.S.	6	5	9	5	25
(470-527) Diseases of respiratory system.	23	3	3	3	32

YEARS OF LIFE LOST. Death rates give a misleading impression of the relative importance of the various causes of death as they require interpreting in age groups if their influence on loss of life is to be measured. A method of illustrating the loss of working life and loss of total life is now advocated. Working life is taken as the years between 15 and 65. The total life which a person is entitled to is taken as 85. With these assumptions and a few approximations we get the following table: -

YEARS OF LIFE LOST.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	TOTAL DEATHS			MEAN AGE AT DEATH		YEARS OF LIFE LOST PER 10,000 POPULATION			
	NO. R.D.	RATE PER 10000 POPULATION		R.D.	ENGLAND & WALES.	AGES 15 - 64		TOTAL TO AGE 85	
		R.D.	ENGLAND & WALES.			R.D.	ENGLAND & WALES	R.D.	ENGLAND & WALES
All causes.	395	102	114	68	67	575	669	1,750	2,104
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	9	2	2	50	50	36	25	82	56
Cancer (all sites)	59	15	20	63	65	100	105	335	376
Cancer of lung, bronchus (Males only)	7	4	6	60	62	26	35	92	131
Cancer of breast (Females only)	8	4	4	61	63	38	22	96	72
Vascular lesions of c.n.s.	44	11	15	72	73	27	30	145	185
Coronary disease.	51	13	14	55	70	44	41	197	207
Other cardiac diseases.	82	21	22	76	75	42	39	226	248
Bronchitis and pneumonia	49	13	12	70	67	47	74	170	225
Accidents.	12	3	3	54	53	50	58	93	115

SUTTON-AT-HONE AND STONE. In view of the assaults on the respiratory system by fog of December 1952 and the influenza of February 1953, it is of interest to compare the deaths of the two largest parishes, Sutton-at-Hone and Stone, the latter being notable for atmospheric pollution by dust from the cement works: -

	SUTTON-AT-HONE (1951 pop. 8,100)					STONE (1951 pop. 6,600.)				
	1952 Dec.	1953- Jan. Feb. Mar.			TOTAL	1952 Dec.	1953. Jan. Feb. Mar.			TOTAL.
All causes	9	10	20	8	47	7	9	10	8	34
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Pneumonia.	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	2
Bronchitis.	1	-	3	-	4	-	4	-	-	4
Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Total resp. disease.	2	-	4	-	6	3	4	2	1	10

ALL NUMBERS. Amongst the statistics presented in this report there are some whose figures are small, e.g. less than 10 as in still-births, infant deaths, cancer of the lung and accidents. It must be remembered that chance plays a large part in the variations displayed by such small numbers and that, although these figures may be of interest, reliable conclusions can be based on them.

INFLUENZA. The hope of a protective measure against influenza lies in the use of a vaccine prepared for the same type and strain of virus as that which at the time, threatens the community. There are three types of virus and numerous strains within each type. These strains are undergoing a continuous evolutionary change and so the virus laboratories cannot know what strain to prepare for until an epidemic is at hand and the invading strain is known. The Ministry, therefore, have asked for early information of the appearance of an epidemic so that virus and strain can receive early identification; also Hospital Boards can be warned to clear beds in readiness for the reception of selected cases whose mortality can thereby be reduced.

The three types of virus are A. B. and C. It is Virus "A" which produces epidemics and these tend to occur approximately at two yearly intervals. There was a Virus "A" epidemic here in the 1950-51 winter and this followed the appearance of Virus "A" in June 1950 in South Africa. In June 1952, Virus "A" appeared again in South Africa; this and the end of the two-yearly cycle made a Virus "A" epidemic likely in the 1952-53 winter. This likelihood was made more probable on December 9th by a death which occurred here of a middle-aged man due to acute influenzal pneumonia. Virus "A" was cultured from his lung tissue but the report is not available until January 14th.

Here in Dartford, the need to keep the Ministry informed of the existence and nature of any epidemic that might occur was accentuated by the fact that influenza vaccine trials were being arranged at various places in the country and that amongst the volunteers were a number of the staff of Joyce Green Hospital. Early in December, therefore, Dr. H.G. Close (Consultant Pathologist) and I made arrangements to ask for the following co-operation: -

- (a) Medical Superintendents of all hospitals in Dartford Borough and Rural District to make available to us any evidence of the occurrence of influenza-like illness amongst their patients or staff and for throat washings (for virus isolation) and blood specimens (for complement fixation tests) to be submitted from such patients.
- (b) General practitioners in Dartford Borough and Rural District to let us know of the appearance of influenza-like illness amongst their patients and to allow one of us to collect throat washings and blood specimens from typical cases.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY. The anticipated epidemic did occur but before giving the results it is necessary to explain that after sending ten throat-washings to the virus laboratory, they asked us to refrain from sending more. London and the Home Counties were all experiencing the same epidemic and the pressure on the laboratory for virus isolation was greater than the supply of fertile eggs would allow.

Throat washings require to be taken in the first 36 hours of illness whereas it was tactically impossible to get to some home cases until the second or third day. This difficulty may be met in future by the general practitioner taking the throat washings and by our following up with blood sampling.

In regard to blood specimens, of which two from each patient at a fortnight's interval were required, we could not fit in time, on top of routine work, to take them from all the available home cases. The number of specimens taken are, therefore, only a sample of what was available - but that was all that was wanted.

The results can be summarised: -

	Blood			Throat Washings -	
	Complement fixation tests			Virus "A"	
	Influenza Sol. A			Isolation	
	Positive	Negative	Doubtful.	Yes	No.
Dartford Borough Homes.	3	1	1	1	-
Dartford Rural District Homes.	10	2	1	2	3
Stone Mental Hospital	14	3	-	-	1
Bexley Mental Hospital.	5	-	1	-	-
Darenth Park M.D. Hospital.	3	3	-	-	-
Joyce Green General Hospital.	-	3	1	-	4
	<u>35</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>

CLINICAL PICTURE: There are available the comments of general practitioners busy at the time, the clinical notes on the cases from Stone Mental Hospital and notes taken on the home cases. All very sketchy. With one exception all the highly fevered cases were those at home - perhaps because the patients at Stone Mental Hospital were mostly aged and had less power of reaction. This might be worth more observation on future occasions in view of the increased death rate of the aged from all causes during the influenza epidemics without influenza appearing on their death certificates.

With two exceptions, those seen at home were males and none of the home cases were above middle age. Perhaps the best way of summarising the clinical picture of those seen at home, is to give the notes of one of us who incurred the illness during the survey.

Influenza in 1918 pandemic. 1953 Rhinorrhoea January 22nd and 23rd which stopped abruptly. Taken ill on January 28th with tracheitis and sinusitis. Blood taken 70 hours after first symptom showed complement fixation at less than 1/4. February 2nd temperature 102°F with bronchiolitis. Aureomycin started and continued for four days. Temperature down to normal within 12 hours of taking first dose. Uninterrupted recovery. Blood on February 16th showed complement fixation at 1/32.

Two general practitioners mentioned "gastric types" of the illness, another two referred to "cyanotic pneumonia types". Two general practitioners made the observation that they saw their worst cases when the epidemic was waning. One general practitioner considered most of his cases best described as "feverish colds".

Two home cases who were severely ill showed negative results to complement fixation tests. I presume they were bacterial pneumonias. One specimen taken from a patient in the Southern Hospital (not included in the above figures) gave a complement fixation result for psittacosis.

EPIDEMIOLOGY: The new claims to sickness benefit received by the Dartford Office of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance showed that during the peak of the epidemic sickness was trebled:-

1952 - 53	1951 - 52
Week ended 25th November, 1952 - 222	Week ended 27th November, 1951 - 160
Week ended 2nd December, 1952 - 228	Week ended 4th December, 1951 - 162
Week ended 9th December, 1952 - 273	Week ended 11th December, 1951 - 189
Week ended 16th December, 1952 - 286	Week ended 18th December, 1951 - 178
Week ended 23rd December, 1952 - 222	Week ended 25th December, 1951) - 307
Week ended 30th December 1952 - 171	Week ended 1st January, 1952) - 310
Week ended 6th January, 1953 - 385	Week ended 8th January, 1952 - 291
Week ended 13th January, 1953 - 363	Week ended 15th January, 1952 - 260
Week ended 20th January, 1953 - 384	Week ended 22nd January, 1952 - 268
Week ended 27th January, 1953 - 567	Week ended 29th January, 1952 - 259
Week ended 3rd February, 1953 - 809	Week ended 5th February, 1952 - 281
Week ended 10th February, 1953 - 739	Week ended 12th February, 1952 - 276
Week ended 17th February, 1953 - 562	Week ended 19th February, 1952 - 233
Week ended 24th February, 1953 - 417	Week ended 26th February, 1952 - 274
Week ended 3rd March, 1953 - 310	Week ended 4th March, 1952 - 188
Week ended 10th March, 1953 - 243	Week ended 11th March, 1952 - 193
Week ended 17th March, 1953 - 236	Week ended 18th March, 1952 - 188
Week ended 24th March, 1953 - 258	Week ended 25th March, 1952 - 180
Week ended 31st March, 1953 - 244	Week ended 1st April, 1952 - 214
Week ended 7th April, 1953 - 117	

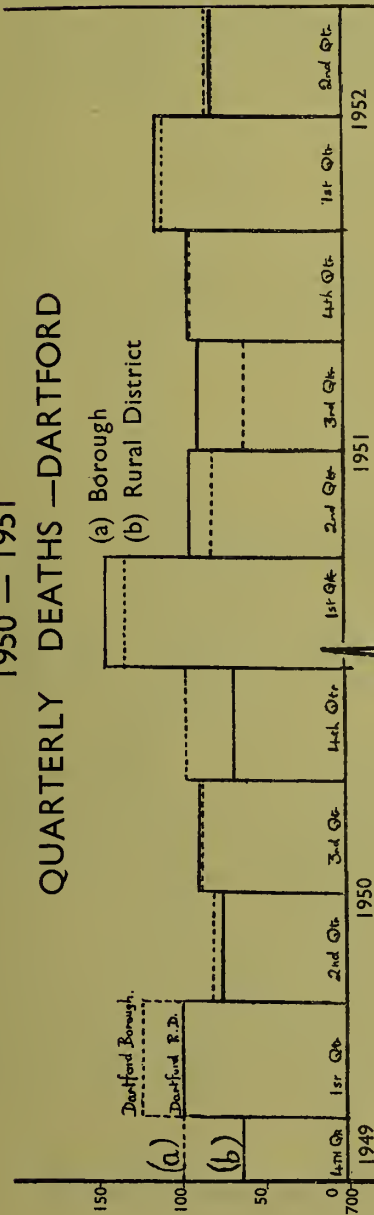
The surgery of each general practice and the office of each hospital was 'phoned in the middle of each week to get an idea of the position and the results are summarised in the following table: -

TELEPHONE REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GENERAL PRACTITIONERS' SURGERIES AND
HOSPITALS ON INCIDENCE OF INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS.

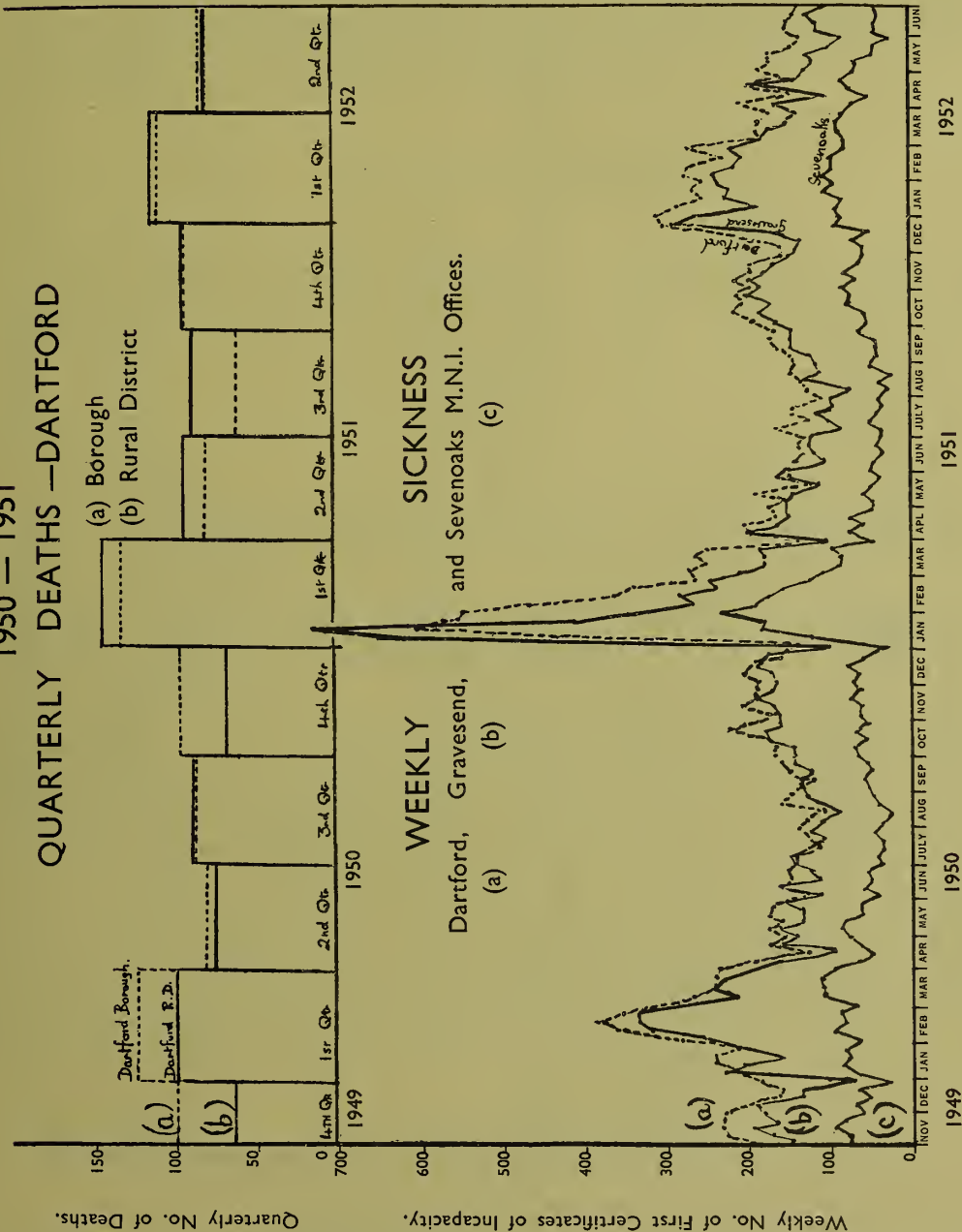
Week ending	Jan. 14th.	Jan. 21st.	Jan. 28th.	Feb. 4th.	Feb. 11th.	Feb. 18th.	Feb. 25th.	Remarks.
Borough.	-	*	***	***	***	***	*	
Practice A.	-	*	***	***	***	***	*	
Practice B.	-	*	***	***	***	***	*	
Practice C.	-	*	***	*		*	-	
Practice D.	-	*	***	***	***	-	-	
Practice E.	-	*	***	***	***	-	-	
Practice F.	-	*	***	*		*	No record	
Practice G.	-	*	***	***	NO RECORD.	*	*	
Practice H.	-	*	*	*	NO RECORD.	*	-	
Joyce Green Hospital.	-	-	*	*		*	-	
West Hill Hospital.	-	-	-	*		-	-	
Bexley Hospital.	-	-	*	*		*	-	
Rural District.								
Practice A (Swanley)	*	*	***	***	***	***	***	
Practice B (Sutton-at-Hone)	-	*	***	***	***	***	***	
Practice C (Farningham & Eynsford)	-	-	-	*	*	-	-	
Practice D (Hartley & Longfield)	-	*	***	***	***	*	-	
Practice E (Greenhithe)	-	*	***	***	*	-	*	
Southern Hospital.	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	
Darent Park.	-	-	*	*	*	*	-	Total 40 persons ill
Stone House.	-	-	*	*	***	*	-	Total 38 persons ill
Kettlewell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
White Oak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Parkwood.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
M.N.I. Figure.	363	384	567	809	739	562	310	

- = no cases
* = some cases
*** = many cases.

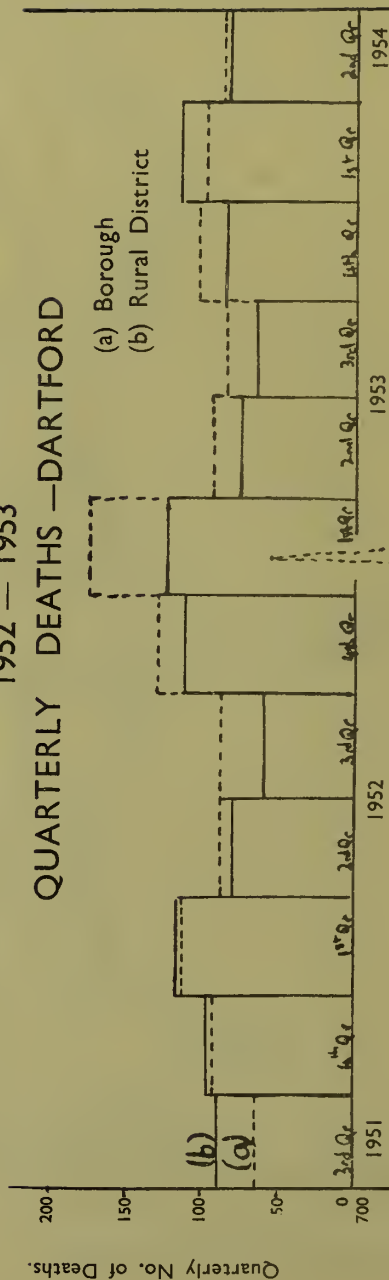
1950 — 1951 QUARTERLY DEATHS —DARTFORD



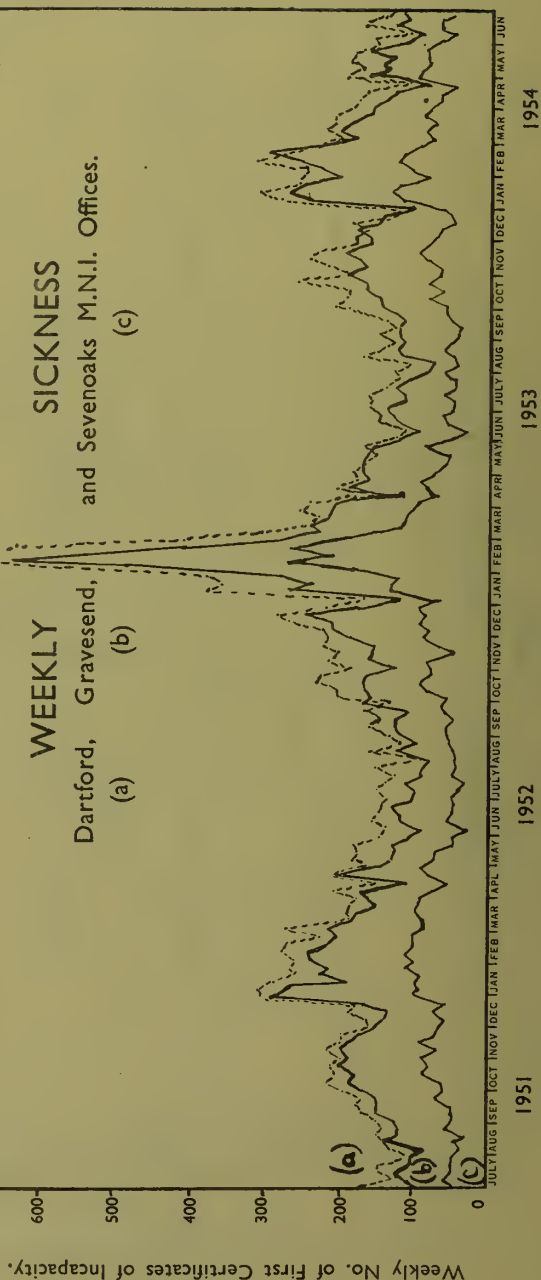
WEEKLY Dartford, Gravesend, and Sevenoaks M.N.I. Offices. (a) (b) (c)



1952 — 1953 QUARTERLY DEATHS — DARTFORD



WEEKLY SICKNESS Dartford, Gravesend, and Sevenoaks M.N.I. Offices.



As will be seen from the table, the Southern end of the Rural District, i.e. the rural part, was only lightly touched by the epidemic. Similarly, the long-stay hospitals - Kettlewell, White Oak and Parkwood - were quite free from infection. The case of Parkwood was surprising as its parent hospital in London, with whom there was normally interchange of staff, had 60 nurses down with influenza.

Amongst the cases seen at home, many of their families were, or had been, ill with the same symptoms. Four medical practitioners and in two cases their families were known to go down with the illness.

In the Borough, deaths from respiratory diseases (influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other diseases of the respiratory system) and from all causes were markedly greater than in the same quarter of the previous year and greater than those of the same quarter during the 1951 epidemic. In the Rural District deaths from respiratory diseases, but not deaths from all causes, showed a marked increase on the same quarter of the previous year and the figure was akin to that of the same quarter in the 1951 epidemic: -

Deaths in First Quarter.

	Borough (pop. approx. 40,000)		Rural District (pop approx. 38,000)	
	Respiratory Diseases.	All causes.	Respiratory Diseases.	All causes.
1950.	14	122	16	101
1951.	30	134	30	144
1952	21	115	13	118
1953	64 *	173 *	36*	124 *

* According to method of allocation in use during previous 3 years.

NOTIFICATIONS. The notifications of pneumonia received in the first quarter of 1953 were 29 in the Borough and 32 in the Rural District. In 1952 the figures were 7 and 4 respectively.

HOSPITAL WARNINGS. Hospitals have a warning system which enables them to prepare for increased pressure on their beds for acute illness. A white warning is given when the emergency bed service can only find admissions for 85% of applications, a yellow when admissions are only 80% and a red when admissions are down to 75%. The Dartford Hospital Group received a white warning on January 6th. a yellow January 24th and a red on January 27th. Red reverted to yellow on February 3rd and to white on February 4th. A yellow warning was given again on February 10th and reverted to white on February 19th. On February 26th the Dartford Group received a Regional message that London was getting jammed for lack of beds and that Dartford must be prepared to help. However, the all clear was given on March 4th.

The points of interest of this epidemic were: -

(a) It was foreseen and arrangements for its survey were made early on in December, its probability was mentioned in the reports for December made to the January Public Health Committees; as soon as public notice boards were available in the town, ie. on January 1st, 1953, they were occupied by C.C.H.E. influenza posters ordered and waiting for display.

(b) The type and strain of virus that was to feature in the epidemics was received by the virus laboratory on December 13th a month before the epidemic began.

(c) If an effective vaccine could have been prepared and vaccination carried out within a month, a large incidence of illness in young and middle aged people and a number of deaths in old people might have been avoided.

Our thanks are due to the patients who kindly agreed to having their veins punctured for the purpose of this inquiry and to colleagues in general and hospital practice for their ready co-operation.

The report to the Medical Research Council on the clinical trial of the influenza vaccine for the whole country shows that those volunteers who were given the trial vaccine experienced 40% fewer cases of influenza than those who were given control vaccine. In England and Wales 1,244 patients provided material for laboratory examination and of these 51 were from homes and hospitals in Dartford Borough and Rural District.

MEASLES. The two-yearly cycle continued: -

NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS.

	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.
1949-1950	-	-	1	-	-	-
1950-1951	16	102	67	127	150	78
1951-1952	-	-	-	-	2	3
1952-1953	26	210	284	164	147	61
1953-1954	-	-	-	-	-	-

WHOOPING COUGH. Notifications increased from 50 in 1952 to 155 in 1953.

POLIOMYELITIS. One paralytic and two non-paralytic cases occurred. The paralytic case occurred in the parish of Eynsford. The death from acute poliomyelitis refers to a patient who incurred the paralytic form of the disease several years ago and was not a case notified in the year 1953.

NOTIFIABLE BOWEL DISEASES. The paratyphoid fever case that was notified, incurred his infection elsewhere while on holiday.

The dysentery cases were all of the sonhe type and three of them were associated with infections in their respective families.

One of the food poisoning cases was an infant of 5 months whose diarrhoea and vomiting took him into hospital where *S. typhi-murium* was found. The stool specimens of the 5 remaining members of the family were negative. The other food poisoning case was an infection with *S. enteritidis* in a member of a pastrycook's household. The household were kept under close observation and the pastrycook, who was co-operative, carried on with his work with no unfortunate results.

TUBERCULOSIS

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS: Notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis received in 1953 were 53; in 1952 there were 47. Deaths numbered 10 and 8 in these two years respectively.

The tuberculosis which resulted in three of these deaths, was not notified in life. Two of these were only diagnosed by post-mortem examination and of these two, one had not sought treatment for any illness while alive.

Whereas deaths give us an impression of a large fraction of disease going about unnotified, Mass X-ray gives an entirely opposite picture. The Mass X-ray unit visited the District for 2 weeks in September and 2 days in October, 1953. Previously unsuspected tuberculosis was found in only 0.2% of those examined and only a portion of this 0.2% is active disease; this is less than the England and Wales figure which is 0.3% for active disease alone.

The above difference between the incidence of discovery of pulmonary tuberculosis by death certification and its discovery by Mass X-ray in previously unsuspected cases, is in keeping with a recent conclusion of the Medical Research Council that the two best uses for mass X-ray appear to be the examination of symptomatic cases referred by doctors and the grouping of units for comprehensive surveys of "black spots".

Besides tuberculosis the visit of the mass X-ray Unit revealed two benign and two malignant neoplasms.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS: There were six notifications of non-pulmonary tuberculosis in 1953 which were as follows: -

2 males aged 44 and 55 with tuberculosis of urogenital tract.
Wife of the former known to be suffering from tuberculosis.

1 girl of 13 suffering from meningitis whose father is a chronic case of pulmonary tuberculosis.

2 children and a girl of 18 suffering from "glands" of neck who were consumers of a source of milk shown to be tuberculous in 1952.
One of these children died from other causes.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION: Primary inoculations decreased in number for the first time in 3 years and it seems that when the figures are available for infants born in 1953, they will show a decrease in the infant immunisation rate.

The most recent rate available, that for infants born in 1952, is 65% and this then showed a continuation of the upward trend of the previous years. In 1952 the percentage for Kent was 63% and for England and Wales about 35%. For a well-immunised child population, the Ministry consider a rate of 75% is necessary.

Of some 5,400 children aged 5-14, at the end of 1953 3,918 had been immunised at some time of their life but of these only 2,521 had received immunisation within the last 5 years which represents an immunity rate among school-children of 47%. By comparison with the percentage aimed at, this is low.

1953 was the fifth year in succession in which no case of diphtheria was notified.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX. Our infant vaccination rate was 51% in 1953 compared with 53% in 1952. The 1953 figure for Kent was 58% and for England and Wales 34%.

As in former years, there was almost no re-vaccination of school-children although the Ministry regard this as a necessary routine on entering and again on leaving school. Re-vaccination done at school age is practically trouble-free and this procedure would substantially diminish the chance of rapid spread of smallpox.

Two smallpox contacts were under surveillance in 1954.

AVAILABILITY OF VACCINATION & IMMUNISATION SERVICES: In view of the fall in the vaccination acceptance rate, it is occasionally asked whether the procedure should again be made "compulsory" as it was prior to 1948. In my Annual Report for 1947, I recorded that out of 465 babies who were registered in this district, 306 were vaccinated at or before the age of 6 months, giving a vaccination acceptance rate of 66%. The drop in percentage from those days is, therefore, a mere 15% and my impression is that this drop can be accounted for not by the cessation of the so-called "compulsory" vaccination but by the greater inconvenience now to the parents in obtaining vaccination for their infants.

Prior to 1948, if an infant was not vaccinated within 6 weeks of birth a public vaccinator visited the home after giving due notice and offered vaccination there. Since 1948, however, the initiative has to be taken by the parents who have to take the infant in most cases to the doctor's surgery and if fresh lymph is not available they will have to call again after it has been sent for.

Similarly, revaccination against smallpox and reimmunisation against diphtheria of school-children awaits only its organisation in the schools and it is misleading to regard low figures for revaccination and reimmunisation as a reflection on the attitude of the parents.

These considerations are important in a rural district to whose population the health and welfare services are less accessible than in the towns.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION: I have not included any figures for deposit gauge readings in this report as these are best studied together with the figures of the neighbouring authorities in whose interpretation we will share as a member of the Thames-side Advisory Committee.

However, in my report for 1952 I did suggest that the freedom from acidity in our deposit gauge readings was unique, that this was due to the limey dust in our atmosphere, and that the action of this dust in adsorbing and neutralising the acid pollution caused by coal burning may, in respect of our lungs, have ^{an} effect which is protective.

The year 1952 was free from influenza and noteworthy for a harmful combination of atmospheric pollution and adverse meteorological conditions; that year's statistics for cement districts have been calculated since my 1952 report and are of interest here. Respiratory death rates tend to vary with atmospheric pollution which varies with the density of the population and the rates for the cement districts (i.e. Dartford R.D., Swanscombe U.D., Northfleet U.D., and Thurrock U.D.) and their relation to the rates of other areas are, therefore, displayed in the following table: -

DEATH RATES FROM RESPIRATORY DISEASES, 1952.

	MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, LUNG (162,163).	TUBERCULOSIS, RESPIRATORY. (001 - 008)	INFLUENZA. (480-483)	PNEUMONIA. (490-493, 763).	BRONCHITIS. (500-502)	OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES. (470-475, 510-527).	ALL THESE RESPIRATORY CAUSES.
RURAL AREAS ENGLAND & WALES.	0.22	0.15	0.04	0.33	0.39	0.10	1.25
CEMENT DISTRICTS THAMES-SIDE	0.31	0.15	0.01	0.39	0.54	0.05	1.45
URBAN AREAS ENGLAND & WALES WITH POPULATIONS UNDER 50,000	0.29	0.19	0.04	0.40	0.52	0.11	1.55
URBAN AREAS ENGLAND & WALES WITH POPULATIONS OF 50,000 AND UNDER 100,000.	0.32	0.20	0.04	0.43	0.56	0.10	1.66
URBAN AREAS ENGLAND & WALES WITH POPULATIONS OF 100,000 AND OVER	0.35	0.26	0.03	0.50	0.60	0.11	1.85
CONURBATIONS ENGLAND & WALES	0.39	0.25	0.04	0.51	0.81	0.10	2.10
LONDON ADMIN. COUNTY	0.43	0.28	0.05	0.61	1.09	0.12	2.64

During the year under review, in view of the importance of sulphur dioxide to health, this Council persuaded the Thames-Side Advisory Committee for the Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution to make provision for the quadrupling of the number of lead peroxide gauges and the installation of volumetric SO₂ gauges in their area of observation.

HOUSING: In 1953, the number of new houses built 439, the number of unfit houses demolished 23, the number of houses in which undertakings were given not to be used for human habitation 14, and the number of families rehoused 320, were the greatest recorded in these reports.

In regard to repairs, however, we had one setback in that an Appeal against an Order of this Council under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, was upheld by the County Court. The Order made by this Council was based on the fact that this Council was satisfied that the house was, in certain respects, unfit for human habitation. The Court's definition of such a house, however, was "a house in which no human being can be expected to live" and as the house could not be so described, the Court upheld the Appeal made by the owner.

In view of the significance of this interpretation of the Housing Act, the Public Health Committee took action to attempt to get a definition of an unfit house included in the Housing Act but a few months' later events overtook us and such provisions appeared in the Rents and Repairs Bill which has now become law.

As is well-known, numerous persons find a temporary solution to their housing problems in the use of a caravan. The caravan licences issued during recent years, excluding those on the sites of two holiday camps, have been as follows: -

	1950	1951	1952	1953.
Sites	13	10	-	-
Individual caravans.	20	39	56	120

The census 1951 County report shows 49 caravans comprising 57 rooms occupied by 49 households in Dartford Rural District. Our licences show that each caravan household in the main consists of either a childless couple or at the most a family with two children, thus the 1953 caravan population can be estimated at about 366.

The 1953 figures for rehousing tempt one to review the housing problem which consists, in order of priority, of the following tasks: -

- (1) Removal of the need for shared accommodation,
- (2) Relief of overcrowding,
- (3) Ensuring that all dwellings are fit for human habitation,
- (4) Ensuring that all dwellings are of good standard.

With a mind to the hardship being endured by those on the Council's list of applicants, it would be callous to describe the housing position as anything but serious. However, a distant view of the present position seems to justify a tinge of optimism. If we exclude the potential immigration into the district, the following propositions seem worth risking: -

- (1) With the annual number of births around 500 and the expectation of life at birth of 70 years, our future population, outside Institutions, will be $500 \times 70 = 35,000$. As our present population, outside Institutions, is already this figure we can regard our population as now stabilised. *
- (2) The trend of recent decades towards small families has run its course and, therefore, the number of households in a given population will not increase further.
- (3) With an annual number of births of 500, the annual number of those seeking housing accommodation cannot average at more than 250. Of that 250, a fair number will be accommodated in houses vacated by those giving up their homes for death or other reasons.
- (4) Although the population and number of households therein is not increasing, the number of houses is increasing and if in each future year as many as 440 houses are built and 40 are demolished or closed as in 1953, then excluding the effects of immigration the problem of shared accommodation and overcrowding will be solved when the present 1,200 applicants on the Council's housing list are rehoused and this should only take a few years.

* Our present natural increase is presumably due to postponement of death and persons leaving the district after retirement.

I apologise for indulging in the above theoretical ramblings; more reliable facts can be obtained from the 1951 County Census Report as follows: -

Households in shared dwellings	...	...	535
Total persons in households	...	...	1,348
Rooms occupied	...	...	1,481
Average number of persons per room..	...	...	0.91

(The percentage of householders sharing a dwelling in Dartford Rural District is 5.2; the figures for Kent, England and Wales and London County are 9.7, 15.1 and 47.8 respectively.)

Dwellings occupied by two private households...	226
Dwellings occupied by three or more private households	21

535 householders in shared dwellings mean approximately 270 households to be rehoused for the relief of the shared household problem. On the other hand, from an analysis of half the Council's waiting list, it appears that about 600 applicants are sharing accommodation. This difference is probably due to difference in definition of shared accommodation. The number of new applications for Council houses received during the year ending March, 1954, was 358 including applications from outside the district.

Although relief of overcrowding may be a problem of diminishing size, the improvement of existing property is one which will increase with the acceptance of higher housing standards. In Dartford Rural District, the number of households without a fixed bath in 1951 was 3,440.

WATER: The 68 samples mentioned in the report were taken from Stone House Hospital whose water supply came under suspicion and these samples were part of a survey which was carried on into the following year.

FOOD:

MILK: The number of distributors of undesignated milk continued to diminish and in 1953 only one was left.

*The dealers' licences for sterilised milk continued their upward trend. This sterilised milk is homogenised, sterilised in bottles by heating to at least 212°F. under pressure and sealed with an airtight seal. While sealed, it keeps indefinitely and is becoming popular with some housewives who go out to work or live in remote areas. It can be sold by small traders to whom deliveries can be made at relatively infrequent intervals. The temperature of sterilisation adversely affects its nutritional quality and the applied Nutrition Unit of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine have kindly supplied the following information regarding sterilised milk -

"The biological value of the protein is considerably reduced as although the casein is not much affected, the lactalbumin and the lactoglobulin are almost completely denatured. The amounts of dialysable calcium and phosphate are reduced but only by about 4%. There is an increase in titratable acidity resulting from a decomposition of the lactose. The change in colour is due to an incipient caramelisation of lactose in the presence of protein. The change in odour is due to the evolution of ammonia and volatile sulphur compounds. Vitamin losses are as follows: -

Thiamine ...	40%
Riboflavin ...	50%
Ascorbic acid.	50%

It is unlikely that any of these losses are of nutritional significance except possibly in individual cases where milk is the main source of the nutrient concerned and the total supply is minimal.

Sterilised milk should certainly not be used for infant feeding and is probably undesirable for invalids on a milk diet. Apart from these circumstances, however, there would appear to be nothing against its use as a component of a mixed diet."

The two unsatisfactory reports on designation tests of tuberculin tested milk were due to failure to reach the required cleanliness standard by the methylene blue test. As, however, the samples probably took a little more than two hours to reach the laboratory and were not sent in an insulated ice-box, and as the prescribed test is a rigorous one, these results may be misleading.

ICE-CREAM: In 1953, the number of samples taken for the cleanliness test was only about an eighth of the figure for the former year, the reason being that the quality of previous results has given us increased confidence in this product. Of the 10 samples, all were satisfactory in so far as they were reported on as Grade I or Grade II. This satisfactory position is largely due to the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947-1952).

7 Samples were of ice-cream of established national repute and 3 samples were products of family businesses.

The fact that no samples were taken for fat content by the County Sampling Officers is also due to increased confidence in quality.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

I wish to emphasise that all the routine time-consuming work of housing, water, drainage and food inspection is done by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors.

My thanks are due to a number of colleagues in providing statistical information and in particular to the Local Registrars of Births and Deaths.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support and the Staff of this Department for their willing co-operation.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN H. HUDSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34,113
Population (Census 1931).	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31,253
Mid-year Home Population 1953 (Registrar General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38,610
Number of inhabited houses (1.4.54)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,922
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£267,456
Sum represented by 1d. rate (31.3.54).	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 1,050

DWELLINGS AND THEIR RATEABLE VALUE 1.4.1954.

PARISH	Population 1951 (exclud- ing hospitals)	Total	Under £10	£10 - £13.	£14 - £20.	£21 - £30.	£31 - £50	Over £50	Dwellings in Commercial Premises.
Sutton-at-Hone:	8,100								
Sutton ...		697	200	203	192	59	7	11	25
Swanley ...		1,958	299	524	822	181	67	18	47
Stone:	6,600								
Bean ...		165	85	26	41	8	1	1	3
Stone E. & W.		1,792	456	437	633	208	18	3	37
Wilmington...	3700	1,245	299	139	565	172	47	11	12
Eynsford:	2,550								
Eynsford...		489	154	73	77	119	33	23	10
Crockenhill...		336	170	51	77	11	12	6	9
Darenth ...	2,200	608	164	259	132	40	6	5	2
Horton Kirby...	2,100	670	229	234	105	71	11	13	7
Farningham ...	1,900	605	128	139	198	72	25	24	19
West Kingsdown.	1,800	653	175	128	267	55	10	6	12
Southfleet ...	1,400	419	161	66	94	50	31	11	6
Hartley ...	1,250	446	50	32	196	136	16	8	8
Longfield ...	1,150	359	111	52	127	37	6	3	23
Ash... ..	1,020	308	104	57	88	37	13	6	3
Fawkham ...	380	123	40	28	30	8	5	8	4
Lullingstone...	75	31	24	3	1	1	1	1	-
Ridley... ..	75	18	9	3	3	-	2	1	-
	34,300	10,922	2,858	2,504	3,648	1,265	311	159	227

Some 3,500 persons living in long-stay institutions are included in the Registrar General's estimate of the Home population and all deaths in these institutions are now allocated to this district. The comparability factor for births, governed by the proportion of women aged 18 to 44, is given as 1.00 and that for deaths, governed by the proportion of all age groups, as 0.99. The crude birth or death rate of any local area multiplied by its comparability factor is said to make it comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales and with that for another local area which has been adjusted by its own comparability factor.

SOCIAL CLASS DISTRIBUTION OF OCCUPIED AND RETIRED MALES AGED 15 and OVER.

Social Class.	Per 1,000					
	Dartford R.D.			Kent A.C.		
Class I	30	...	46			
Class II	144	...	165			
Class III	461	...	523			
Class IV	204	...	142			
Class V	161	...	124			

Little change has occurred in the social conditions since attempts made to describe them in previous reports. The following may help as indicators for 1953: -

Cases dealt with by N.S.P.C.C:

Neglect	...	18
Ill-treatment	...	4
Moral Danger	...	3
Total	...	<u>25</u>
Children affected	...	<u>63</u>

Unemployed on 31st December, 1953 (Dartford Borough and Rural District)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	241
									per 1,000 Births.
Illegitimate Births, Dartford Rural District, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
" " England and Wales, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births								Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	273	246	519
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	11	20
								<u>282</u>	<u>257</u>	<u>539</u>
Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated home population										
Birth Rate adjusted for females aged 18-44 in population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.0
Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated home population, England and Wales, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.5
Still Births.								Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	9
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
								<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births..										
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births England & Wales...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.4
										22.4

Deaths from all Causes	Males	Females	Total
	213	182	395

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population...	...	...	10.2
Death Rate adjusted for age and sex by comparability factor	...	...	10.1
Death Rate adjusted for Stone House and Darenth Park and by comparability factor	...	...	9.0
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated home population, England & Wales...	...	...	11.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.	Rate per 1,000 Total Number. (Live and Still) Births.
-------------------------------	---

Deaths from Puerperal Causes, Dartford Rural District...	1	2
Deaths from Puerperal Causes, England & Wales...	525	0.76

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate under 4 weeks	6	1	7
" over 4 weeks	-	-	-
	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births...	...	...	13.0
All infants per 1,000 related live births, England and Wales	...	...	26.8
All infants per 1,000 related live births, London and South-East Region...	...	...	22.5
All infants per 1,000 live births, Sweden	...	...	19.0
All infants per 1,000 live births, Irish Republic	...	...	40.0

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SEX.

Registrar General's Return.

				Male	Female	Persons	
All causes	...	...	...	213	182	395	
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	6	4	10	
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	1	-	1	
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	1	-	1	
Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-	1	1	
Measles	...	...	...	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	5	5	10)
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	7	1	8)
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	-	9	9	) 64
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	-	3	3)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	27	6	33)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	-	1)
Diabetes	...	...	...	-	2	2	
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	25	22	47	47
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	26	24	50)
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	3	3	6)
Other heart disease	...	...	...	32	51	83	) 152
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	9	4	13)
Influenza	...	...	...	3	7	10)
Pneumonia	...	...	...	14	6	20)
Bronchitis	...	...	...	15	11	26	) 59
Other diseases of respiratory system.	...	...	...	1	2	3)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	2	-	2	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	-	1	
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	3	1	4	
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	-	1	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-	1	1	
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	1	-	1	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	20	11	31	
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	2	-	2	
All other accidents	...	...	...	4	6	10	
Suicide	...	...	...	3	2	5	
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	-	-	-

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO AGE

Compiled Locally.

	All Ages.	Under 4 Weeks.	4 weeks to 1 yr.	1 - 2	2 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 55	55 - 65	65 - 75	75.
All causes	395	7	1	1	1	2	3	13	12	39	59	85	175
Tuberculosis, respiratory	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	1	1
Tuberculosis, other.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Syphilitic disease.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diphtheria.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Meningococcal infection.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute poliomyelitis.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus.	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast.	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	30	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	11	4	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diabetes.	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	44	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	5	10	25
Coronary disease, angina.	51	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	5	9	18	17
Hypertension with heart disease.	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1
Other heart disease	77	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	6	14	51
Other circulatory disease.	21	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	8	10
Influenza.	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	5
Pneumonia.	23	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	4	12
Bronchitis.	26	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	6	15
Other diseases of respiratory system.	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate.	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Congenital malformation	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	34	6	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	3	4	14
Motor vehicle accidents.	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
All other accidents.	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	4
Suicide.	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Homicide and operations of war.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SOCIAL CLASS.

	All Classes.	I	II	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IIId	IIIe	IVa	IVb	Va.	Vb.	X.
Males.													
All causes.	213	7	35	-	4	4	1	55	32	17	5	34	19
Tuberculosis, respiratory	5	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
Syphilitic disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus.	7	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	2	1	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	23	3	4	-	-	1	-	6	1	3	1	2	2
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	21	1	6	-	-	-	-	5	3	1	-	5	-
Coronary disease, angina.	28	1	7	-	1	-	-	5	7	1	-	5	1
Hypertension with heart disease.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other heart disease	27	-	5	-	1	1	-	8	8	-	1	1	2
Other circulatory disease	16	-	1	-	-	-	-	6	2	4	-	3	-
Influenza	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	17	-	3	-	-	-	-	7	2	-	1	1	3
Bronchitis.	16	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	3	-	1	5	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Congenital malformations	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	22	1	3	-	1	1	-	8	4	-	-	1	3
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
All other accidents	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
Suicide	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Females.													
All causes	182	4	40	-	7	-	1	47	27	19	3	18	16
Tuberculosis respiratory	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung. bronchus	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast.	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	3	-
Diabetes.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	23	-	7	-	1	-	-	7	4	1	-	2	1
Coronary disease	23	-	8	-	2	-	-	7	3	1	-	2	-
Hypertension with heart disease.	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
Other heart disease.	50	1	9	-	1	-	-	17	8	4	-	3	7
Other circulatory disease	5	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Influenza	7	1	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	6	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-
Bronchitis.	10	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	3
Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	12	-	2	-	1	-	-	3	1	2	-	1	2
All other accidents	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	1
Suicide	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH AT AGES 75 YEARS AND OVER.

	MALES						FEMALES.						
	Total Persons	75 - 79	80 - 84	85 - 89	90 - 94	95 - 99	Total Males.	75 - 79	80 - 84	85 - 89	90 - 94	95 - 99	Total Females.
All Causes	175	32	31	15	6	1	85	29	34	20	5	2	90
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	8	4	-	-	2	-	6	1	1	-	-	-	2
Diabetes	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	25	8	5	-	-	-	13	3	6	3	-	-	12
Coronary disease, angina	17	4	3	1	-	-	8	5	3	1	-	-	9
Hypertension with heart disease.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Other heart disease	51	5	8	5	3	-	21	8	11	7	4	-	30
Other circulatory disease.	10	2	4	2	-	-	8	1	1	-	-	-	2
Influenza	5	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	4
Pneumonia	12	1	2	3	1	-	7	2	2	-	-	1	5
Bronchitis	15	1	2	2	-	-	5	3	3	4	-	-	10
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	2	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	2	4	2	-	1	9	-	4	-	-	1	5
All other accidents	4	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	2
Suicide	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND
CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES
IN THE YEAR 1953.

			England and Wales.	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London).	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Administrative County.	Dartford Rural District.	Dartford Borough.
BIRTHS.			Rate per 1,000 Home Population					
Live births	...	...	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5	14.0	14.0
Still births	...	...	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38	0.2	0.4
			(22.4 (a)	24.8 (a)	21.4 (a)	21.0 (a)	16.4 (a)	24.8 (a)

DEATHS.								
All causes	...	...	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5	10.1	13.7
Typhoid and paratyphoid.			0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	-	-
Diphtheria	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	...	...	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24	0.3	0.4
Influenza	...	...	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.3	0.2
Smallpox	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis...			0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.0	0.0
(including polioencephalitis).								
Pneumonia	...	...	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64	0.5	1.2

NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED)								
Typhoid fever	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	-	-
Paratyphoid fever	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.0	0.1
Meningococcal infection			0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.1	0.0
Scarlet fever	...	...	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02	0.9	1.0
Whooping cough	..	...	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30	4.0	2.9
Diphtheria	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	-	-
Erysipelas	...	...	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.1	0.1
Smallpox	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
Measles.	...	...	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09	20.9	11.4
Pneumonia	...	...	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73	1.4	1.4
Acute poliomyelitis								
(including polioencephalitis)								
Paralytic	...	...	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.0	0.0
Non-paralytic	...	...	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.1	0.1
Food poisoning	..	...	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38	0.1	0.1
Puerperal pyrexia.	...	...	18.23	24.33 (a)	12.46 (a)	28.61 (a)	- (a)	16.9 (a)

Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

DEATHS.								
All causes under 1 year of age	...	...	26.8 (b)	30.8	24.3	24.8	13.0	23.6
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age.			1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1	-	-

(a) Per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births.
(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diseases	Age Groups.														Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted hospital	Total deaths
	Age Unknown	Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-				
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	1	-	1	5	3	20	4	-	1	-	-	-	36	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Dysentery.	-	-	1	-	3	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	5	-	-
Pneumonia	-	4	5	3	-	2	10	2	2	3	5	9	10	55	24	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	3	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
Meningococcal infection	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	-
Whooping Cough.	1	22	13	29	16	19	52	2	-	-	-	1	-	155	1	-	-
Measles	9	17	61	92	73	102	420	17	7	2	2	3	-	805	5	-	-
Food poisoning.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
Scabies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	11	46	80	125	97	126	507	27	9	9	7	14	12	1070	41	-	-

	Sutton-at-Hone	Stone	Wilmington.	Eynsford	Darenth	Horton Kirby	Farningham	West Kingsdown	Southfleet	Hartley	Longfield	Ash	Fawkham	Lullingstone	Ridley	Total
MEASLES 1953.																
January	72	40	25	58	6	36	29	12	2	-	-	-	1	3	-	284
February	34	11	5	26	2	27	29	25	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	164
March	18	10	5	-	5	18	11	26	31	1	15	7	-	-	-	147
April	15	-	2	1	3	15	5	8	3	-	5	4	-	-	-	61
May.	4	51	-	2	13	6	-	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	82
June.	1	11	-	-	19	10	1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
July.	11	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
August.	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
September.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
October.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
November.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
December.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	160	128	37	87	52	112	75	75	37	2	20	16	1	3	-	805

WHOOPING COUGH 1953.																
	33	41	18	6	8	8	4	17	11	1	-	8	-	-	-	155

PNEUMONIA, 1953.																
	1	23	6	1	17	-	1	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	55

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	...	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	...	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	...	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	...	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	...	6	5	-	-	1	1	-	-
35 - 45	...	6	1	1	-	1	1	-	-
45 - 55	...	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	...	6	1	1	-	3	1	-	-
65 and upwards..	...	4	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
Age unknown	...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		39	14	2	3	6	4	-	-

The number of cases on the register at the end of 1953 was: -

Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
M	F	M	F
201	127	27	28

MASS X-RAY

			Total Radiographed.	New Cases.	Percentage.
1953					
	Men	...	1,064	1	0.1%
	Women.	...	1,554	4	0.3%
1952					
	Men	...	405	3	0.7%
	Women	...	528	2	0.4%

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

From the figures kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer the following are derived: -

Age at 31st December.		Primary Inoculations Done in the Year.	Reinforcing Inoculations Done in the Year.	Children Immunised At Any Time In Their Life.
1953				
0 - 4 years	...	363	23	1,492
5 - 14 years	...	79	367	3,918 *
1952				
0 - 4 years	...	431	16	1,446
5 - 14 years	...	73	351	3,963
1951				
0 - 4 years	...	368	14	1,274
5 - 14 years	...	98	500	4,174
1950				
0 - 4 years	...	356	14	1,236
5 - 14 years	...	39	165	4,315

* Of these, 1,397 had not been immunised since 1948.

Population 1951 census 0 - 4 years 3,175: 5 - 14 years 5,319.

INFANT IMMUNISATION RATE.

Year of Birth.	No. of Live Births.	Year Immunised.	Number Immunised.	Percentage.	Total.	Percentage.
1953	539	1953	34	6	?	?
		1954	?	?		
1952	514	1952	47	9	332	65
		1953	285	56		
1951	576	1951	42	7	345	60
		1952	303	53		
1950	454	1950	31	6	301	56
		1951	270	50		

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

Age at 31st December.		Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14
1953				
Vaccinated	...	169	119	19
Re-vaccinated.	...	-	1	3
1952				
Vaccinated.	...	163	118	18
Re-vaccinated.	...	-	3	18
1951				
Vaccinated	...	192	118	38
Re-vaccinated	...	-	3	16
1950				
Vaccinated	...	154	101	17
Re-vaccinated	...	-	4	6

INFANT VACCINATION RATE.

Year of Birth.	No. of Live Births.	Vaccinated During Year	Number Vaccinated	Percentage	Total	Percentage
1953	539	1953 1954	169 ?	31.5 ?	?	?
1952	514	1952 1953	163 108	31.9 21.0	271	53
1951	576	1951 1952	192 111	33.3 19.3	303	53

Vaccinations in 1953 by age at date of Vaccination.

Age at Date of Vaccination.		Under 1	1	2 - 4	5 - 14
Number vaccinated	...	273	6	13	14.
Number re-vaccinated	...	-	-	2	1

273 vaccinations related to 539 births give a rate of 51%

VACCINATIONS IN 1953 BY PRIVATE DOCTORS AND CLINICS.

Age Groups	Private Doctors			Clinics			Total		
	Prim.V.	Re-V.	Total	Prim.V.	Re-V.	Total	Prim.V.	Re-V.	Total
Under 1	248	-	248	25	-	25	273	-	273
1 - Under 2.	6	-	6	-	-	-	6	-	6
2 - Under 5.	11	2	13	2	-	2	13	2	15
Under 5.	265	2	261	27	-	27	292	2	294
5-under 15.	14	1	15	-	-	-	14	1	15
Under 15.	279	3	282	27	-	27	306	3	309

HOUSING.

NEW HOUSES.

In 1953, 312 houses were completed by the Council and 127 by private enterprise.

The effective waiting list of housing applicants at the end of March, 1954, numbered 1,158; the total registered applications for the year being 1,539. During the year ended March, 1954, 320 families were re-housed by the Council: -

		Families Re-housed.					
		April - March		April - March		April - March.	
Neighbourhood		1951	1952	1952	1953	1953	1954
Ridley.	...	-		-		-	
Ash.	...	1		2		5	
Fawkham.	...	1		2		3	
Hartley.	...	2		3		1	
West Kingsdown	...	15		4		12	
Longfield	...	4		2		12	
Southfleet.	...	1		2		9	
Betsham.	...	1		1		-	
Bean.	...	2		1		1	
Darenth.	...	11		15		12	
Stone	...	16		18		40	
Eynsford.	...	2		4		3	
Farningham.	...	3		1		7	
Horton Kirby.	...	6		4		12	
South Darenth.	...	9		2		9	
Sutton-at-Hone.	...	6		3		17	
Lullingstone.	...	-		3		-	
Swanley.	...	64		66		80	
Crockenhill.	...	3		13		14	
Hextable.	...	7		12		16	
Wilmington.	...	8		36		33	
Hawley.	...	6		4		4	
Outside Rural District.		15		20		30	
		<u>183</u>		<u>218</u>		<u>320</u>	

152 Council tenants were moved to accommodation more suitable to their requirements.

IMPROVEMENTS.

In 1953 two applications were received for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, and grants totalling £221 were approved. The work, however, was not finished until 1954.

REPAIRS, DEMOLITIONS, ETC.

Inspection by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1953 produced the following results: -

I. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year: -

1. (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	227
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	...	...	3,248

2.	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	Nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose		...	Nil
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation.	...	...	21
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-headings) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.		...	190

II. Action without service of Formal Notices: -

1.	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers.	...	...	161
2.	Work in hand at end of year - Number of properties		...	10
3.	Houses demolished by Informal action.	...	...	16

1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Welsh Tavern Cottages which were unfit for human habitation and not capable, at a reasonable expense of being rendered so fit, were acquired during the year by the Council at site value, together with adjacent land, for the purposes of demolition and re-development.

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year: -

1.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936: -			
	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	5
	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices: -			
	(a) By Owners.		...	4
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners.		...	1
2.	Proceedings under Public Health Act, 1936: -			
	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.		...	14
	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices: -			
	(a) By Owners.		...	14
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners.		...	Nil.
3.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936: -			
	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which "Demolition Orders" were made.		...	14.
	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of "Demolition Orders".			
	Orders made in 1953		...	6
	Orders made in 1952		...	1
	Number of dwellings for which undertakings not to be used for human habitation were given.		...	14

Demolition Orders were served in respect of the following: -

1, 2, 3, 4, Cooks Cottages, Red Street, Southfleet.

The Old Gills, South Darenth, Horton Kirby.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 Nightingale Place, Button Street, Farningham. Of these, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Nightingale Place were demolished by end of 1953.

Houses demolished by informal action: -

9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 Alexandra Road, Swanley Junction.

1, 2, Fenn's Cottages, Lower Road, Hextable.

16, Ashen Grove, East Hill, West Kingsdown.

Mill House, South Darenth, Horton Kirby.

(Undertakings not to be used for human habitation previously obtained under Section 11).

Houses in which undertakings were given that they would not be used for human habitation: -

77 Hillhouse Road, North, Stone.

42, Main Road, Sutton-at-Hone.

1 - 2 Black Lion Cottages, Southfleet.

1, Ivy Cottages, Lee's Yard, Crockenhill.

5, Russell Cottages, High Street, Eynsford.

5, 6, 7 Daltons Place, Crockenhill.

12, 14, 16, 18, 20, High Road, Wilmington.

4. Proceedings under Sections 25, 27 & 29 of the Housing Act, 1936. (Clearance Areas).

During 1953, the Council declared the following to be clearance areas: -

(a) Nos. 14, 16, 18 and 20 Alexandra Road, Swanley.

(b) Nos. 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36 and 38 Alexandra Road, Swanley.

(c) Nos. 42, 44 and 46 Alexandra Road, Swanley.

To secure the clearance of these areas, the Council determined to purchase the land comprised in the clearance areas. In addition, for the satisfactory development of the cleared areas, the Council resolved to purchase the land, including houses, adjoining and/or surrounding the clearance areas as follows: -

(a) Nos. 6, 8, 10 and 12 Alexandra Road, Swanley.

(b) Nos. 22 and 24 Alexandra Road, Swanley.

(c) Nos. 40 and 48 Alexandra Road, Swanley.

(d) Land formerly forming the site of Nos. 2 and 4, Alexandra Road, Swanley.

(e) Land on the south east side of Alexandra Road, Swanley, lying between No. 3 Alexandra Road, Swanley, and the Southern Railway line.

Defects remedied by informal and formal action.

The following are the details of the repairs initiated by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors and carried out during 1953: -

Sanitary Accommodation: -						
(i) Insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	1
(ii) Defective	...	...	...	...	...	31
New lavatories provided.	...	...	...	...	...	3
New baths and wash basins.	...	...	...	...	...	3
New sinks provided.	...	...	...	...	...	7
New W.C. pans fitted.	...	...	...	...	...	29
New water storage tanks fitted	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water storage tanks protected from frost..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Piped water supply provided inside premises	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cooking ranges, stove, coppers and boilers renewed or repaired.	...	...	...	...	...	9
Water waste preventors renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	25
Waste pipes to sinks, etc., repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gutters and rainwater pipes renewed or repaired.	...	...	...	...	...	36
Roofs repaired.	...	...	...	...	...	50
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
External walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	17
Dampness to walls abated.	...	...	...	...	...	21
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	44
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	32
Doors renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	17
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Permanent ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wall plaster repaired.	...	...	...	...	...	59
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	36
Yard paving repaired.	...	...	...	...	...	6
New dustbins provided.	...	...	...	...	...	7
Offensive accumulations removed.	...	...	...	...	...	47
Rainwater soakaways provided.	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water closet cistern repaired.	...	...	...	...	...	1

During the year, an appeal against an Order of the Council under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, was upheld by the County Court.

CARAVANS.

The following are the details of licences issued during the year under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936:-

Number of annual licences granted authorising the use of moveable dwellings (two holiday camps having a total of 80 moveable dwellings licenced by two licences)	122
Number of licences authorising persons to allow land to be used as sites for moveable dwellings.	Nil
Number of unlicensed caravans removed during the year.	11

HOUSING PRIORITY ON MEDICAL GROUNDS.

The following are the details of applications, supported by medical certificates, received during the year for priority in re-housing on medical grounds: -

	Applications received	Some degree of priority recommended	No priority recommended.
Tuberculosis ...	19	16	3
Other than Tuberculosis.	33	17	16
Total ...	<u>52</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>19</u>

WATER.

At the end of 1953, the position in regard to quality and quantity was as follows: -

	Results.	
	Bacteriological.	Chemical.
10,828 houses supplied by Metropolitan Water Board and Mid Kent Water Co. Quantity good. Samples taken of water going into supply by M.K.W.C.		
Satisfactory...	14	-
Samples taken from household taps, M.W.B. and M.K.W.C.		
Satisfactory...	9	-
65 houses supplied by piped supply from well in Lullingstone Park, Parish of Lullingstone.		
Quantity satisfactory...		
Samples satisfactory ...	1	-
9 houses supplied by piped supply from one well at Sutton House, Clement Street, Parish of Sutton.		
Quantity satisfactory...		
Samples ...	-	-
14 houses supplied by pump or bucket from adjacent wells.		
Quantity mostly satisfactory.		
Samples satisfactory ...	2	-
6 houses supplied by rainwater.		
Quantity unsatisfactory.		
Samples ...	-	-
<u>10,922</u> Total houses.		
2 hospitals supplied by well.		
Quantity satisfactory.		
Samples - satisfactory ...	68	3
Unsatisfactory ...	4	-
2 factories supplied by well.		
Quantity - satisfactory.		
Samples ...	-	-
2 swimming baths (M.K.W.C.) open to public.		
Samples satisfactory ...	4	-
3 swimming baths (M.W.B.) not open to public.		
Samples ...	-	-

DRAINAGE.

An account of the drainage and sewerage of this district is given in our previous reports.

No extension of the sewer was carried out during 1953 but approval was given to the contribution of £135 towards the extension of the sewer 627 feet along Lower Road, Hextable so that the drainage to two houses could be connected thereto at a total cost of £225. This work was done in 1954.

New buildings accounted for 365 dwellings being connected to the sewer, 30 being connected to septic tanks and 44 to cesspools.

One existing building was connected to the sewer and its cesspool closed. Two existing buildings were provided with cesspool drainage and their pail-closets discarded at a total cost of £208. To this cost £84 was contributed by the Council under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

In view of the disrepair of the drains serving the terrace of 20 houses, Nos. 5 - 43 Powder Mill Lane, and in view of the deterioration in quality of water from the adjacent Metropolitan Water Board pumping station, the drainage system of these houses was relaid by the owners in cast-iron under the supervision of the Council's Sanitary Inspector. The extra cost incurred by the use of cast-iron drains was borne by the M.W.B.

Under Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936, 3 dwellings were connected directly with the sewer and an intervening cesspool closed, the cost being recovered from the owners.

The effluent from Stone Outfall Works was sampled for chemical analysis by the County Analyst on eleven occasions and ten of these samples were reported as poor, the remaining one being satisfactory. However, four samples taken by the Port of London Authority satisfied their required standard.

Apart from the above, the following are the details of work initiated by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors during 1953: -

Cesspools reconstructed	...	2
cesspools repaired	...	2
Sewage disposal plants repaired		1
Drainage reconstructed	...	41
Drains repaired	...	18
Drains cleansed	...	76
Drains tested by smoke	...	84

At the end of the year the sanitary accommodation and drainage was approximately as follows: -

Buildings with W.C.'s discharging into drainage system	...	...	...	...	...	8,492
Buildings with W.C.'s discharging into septic tanks	...	...	...	...	...	157
Buildings with W.C.'s discharging into cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	2,205
Buildings provided with pail closets...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Buildings provided with privies.	...	...	...	...	...	4
TOTAL						<u>10,922</u>

FOOD.

MILK.

Regulations require this Council to register dairies not being dairy farms and distributors, i.e. dairymen other than dairy farmers. The Council also have the duty to grant, or refuse to grant, dealers' licences to distributors authorising the use of a special designation in relation to milk sold from premises in this district. Those holding dealers' licences for trade from premises outside this district can be granted supplementary licences authorising them to use a designation in relation to milk sold in this district.

The following are the figures for registrations and licences during recent years: -

		1950	1951	1952	1953
Dairies registered	...	8	8	8	6
Distributors registered	...	21	24	28	34
Distributors of undesignated milk.		5	4	2	1
Dealers' licences for: -					
Tuberculin tested milk	...	10	17	19	17
Pasteurised milk.	...	17	19	19	21
Sterilised milk.	...	6	9	12	25
Supplementary licences for: -					
Tuberculin tested milk.	...	5	5	7	7
Pasteurised milk.	...	5	5	6	6
Sterilised milk.	...	3	3	3	6
Number of visits to dairy premises					
by Council's Sanitary Inspectors.		128	52	94	61

Sampling for designation or infection tests.

29 samples were submitted to the County Laboratory.

Grade of Milk.	Samples Taken for designation test.	Samples Unsatisfactory	Samples Taken for guinea pig tuberculosis test.	Samples Unsatisfactory.
Tuberculin tested (Pasteurised)	1	-	-	-
Tuberculin tested.	7	2	7	-
Pasteurised.	10	-	1	-
Sterilised	1	-	-	-
Undesignated	-	-	2	-
TOTALS	19	2	10	-

Sampling for Adulteration.

50 samples of milk were taken by the County Sampling Officers in Dartford Rural District and a report kindly supplied by the County Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures, shows that all these samples were genuine.

ICE-CREAM.

The position regarding the registration of premises and sampling for cleanliness by the methylene blue test during recent years up to the end of 1953 is as follows: -

		1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Premises registered for:-							
Sale	...	44	63	69	68	71	81
Manufacture	...	8	8	-	3	-	-
Samples: -							
Grade	I	...	7 37%	12 26%	13 61%	56 74%	63 74%
"	II	...	2 11%	17 36%	3 15%	12 16%	16 19%
"	III	...	4 21%	2 4%	4 19%	5 7%	4 5%
"	IV	...	6 31%	16 34%	1 5%	2 3%	2 2%
TOTAL	...	...	19 100%	47 100%	21 100%	75 100%	85 100%
			10 100%				

From the report kindly supplied by the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, it seems that no sample of ice-cream was taken during 1953 with a view to ascertaining whether it complied with the minimum requirements for fat content.

MEAT.

The number of slaughtermen licensed in 1953 was ... 13

The number of slaughterhouses licensed in 1953 was ... 4

The following are the details regarding meat inspection by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors: -

Summary of Animals killed and carcasses inspected: -

Particulars.		Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Number killed	...	4	3	3	74
Number inspected.	...	4	3	3	74
(i) All diseases except tuberculosis: -					
whole carcasses condemned	-		1	-	1
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.	...	3	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected with disease other than tuberculosis.	75%		33.3%	-	1.35%
(ii) Tuberculosis only: -					
Whole carcasses condemned	-		-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.	...	-	-	-	2
Percentage of number inspected.	...	-	-	-	2.7%

The following items were rejected: -

2 pigs' heads	...	Tuberculosis
1 pig's carcase	...	Pyæmia (infected blood)
1 calf's carcase	...	Umbilical pyæmia (do)
25 lbs. cow liver.	...	Distomatosis (Liver flukes)
10 lbs. cow liver	...	Abscesses.
20 lbs. thick flank and ribs of beef.	...	Abscesses.
110 lbs. beef.	...	Badly bruised.

From the above, the following were submitted to the hospital laboratory for diagnosis: -

Cow: Sebaceous material from omentum
 No T.B. seen. Gram negative bacilli present.
 B.Coli grown ++ Streptococcus faecalis +

Cow: Cyst from uterus. A simple cyst of no
 pathological significance.

Ox: Tongue. Showed sarcosporidia of no
 pathological significance.

The following items were surrendered from shops and canteens: -

183	lbs. mutton.	...	bone taint.
82	lbs beef.	...	bone taint.
8	lbs. beef trimmings.	...	badly bruised.
23	lbs. sweetbreads.	...	decomposed.
10	lbs. tinned lambs' livers	...	decomposed.
20	lbs. pork trimmings.	...	rancid.
1	calf's head.	...	decomposed.
12	lbs. gammon bacon.	...	bone taint.
16	lbs. sausages.	...	rancid.
60	lbs. 15 oz. tinned ham.	...	decomposed.
1	cwt. 26 lbs. 3 oz other		
	tinned meats.	...	decomposed.
46	lbs. partly cooked mutton	...	tainted

OTHER FOODS.

Other than meat, the following were surrendered from shops and canteens as unfit for human consumption: -

Fruit & Vegetables	...	366 lbs.
Wet Fish.	...	105 "
Tinned fish.	...	9 "
Cheese.	...	7 "
Tinned milk.	...	80 "
Sundries.	...	44 "

In addition to the 50 samples of milk mentioned above, the County Sampling Officers took the following samples during 1953: -

Drugs.	...	10
Spirits.	...	6
Other samples.	...	53
Total		<u>69</u>

All these samples were genuine with the exception of the following: -

<u>Sample of</u>	<u>Analysis</u>	<u>Action taken.</u>
Butterscotch pieces	Fat 3.65% all butter. Probably a little low in fat.	) Further sample.) satisfactory.
Sausage rolls.	Meat content 6%	) Proceedings taken.
Sausage rolls.	Meat content 4.5%	) Fine £5 plus
Pearl Barley.	Contained one weevil.	) £5. 5s. 0d. costs.
Semolina.	Mite infested.	) Stocks destroyed.

Food Preparation Premises.

During 1953, the following action has been initiated by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors: -

5 bakehouses	-	Walls and ceilings cleansed and redecorated.
1 bakehouse	-	Floor and doors repaired.
26 food preparing premises	-	Walls and ceilings cleansed and redecorated.
8 -ditto-	-	Hot water provided for employees.
3 -ditto-	-	Floors repaired.
1 -ditto-	-	Roof to kitchen repaired.
1 -ditto-	-	Yard at rear of cafe cleansed.
1 -ditto-	-	New sink provided.
1 -ditto-	-	Fly and dust proof showcases provided.
1 -ditto-	-	Ventilated space provided between lavatory and dining room.

Total number of inspections made - 583.

VERMIN.

Rodents.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Council's Rodent operator: -

Number of complaints received - 98.

Infestations found: -

Rats, major	...	...	3.
Rats, minor	...	...	105.
Mice, major	...	...	2.
Mice, minor	...	...	8

Infestations found as a result of survey: -

Rats, major	...	...	-
Rats, minor	...	...	82
Mice, major	...	...	-
Mice, minor	...	...	-

Business premises treated	...	12
Private dwellings treated	...	200

Estimated kill, Ministry of Food formula: -

Rats	1,039
------	-----	-----	-----	-------

By traps or other means: -

Rats.	...	...	...	32
Mice	...	...	...	168

Dead bodies found: -

Rats	...	...	...	596
Mice	...	...	...	168

Sewer treatment: -

Manholes tested ...	...	262
Infestations found..	...	2
Infestations cleared	...	2

Other Vermin.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during 1953: -

Number of houses disinfested of bed bugs	-	8
Council houses disinfested of bed bugs	-	2
Private dwellings disinfested of bed bugs	-	6
Number of houses disinfested of fleas	-	6
Council houses disinfested of fleas	-	2
Private houses disinfested of fleas	-	4
Houses disinfested of ants.	-	7
Houses disinfested of cockroaches	-	1
Houses disinfested of bats.	-	1
Wasp nests destroyed.	-	13

FACTORIES AND SHOPS.

The following work was done by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors:-

Factories.

1. Inspections under Part I, Factories Act, 1937.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections.	Number of written Notices.	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	14	84	11	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	118	106	14	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises).	-	-	-	-
Total	132	190	25	-

2. Particulars of Defects Found.

	Number of Defects Found.	Defects Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Number of prosecutions.
Want of cleanliness (Sec. 1)	9	5	-	-	-
Overcrowding (Sec.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temper- ature (Sec. 3).	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4).	2	2	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec.6).	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec. 7).					
(a) Insufficient.	5	5	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	4	4	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for the sexes.	2	2	-	1	-
(d) Other offences against the Act. (Excluding Outworkers).	3	3	-	-	-
Total	25	21	-	2	-

Note: Re want of cleanliness - work in hand to 4 factories at end of year.

7 new factories were added to the Register during the year.

4 factory premises were closed during the year.

3. Outworkers.

(a) Total number of outworkers notified to the Council by firms in the Dartford Rural District under Section 110 (1c) Factories Act, 1937	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Total number of outworkers notified by Dartford Rural District Council to other Councils under Section 110 (2) Factories Act, 1937.	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c) Total number of outworkers notified to Dartford Rural District Council by other Councils..	...	...	...	...	...	5
(d) Total number of outworkers employed in Dartford Rural District.	...	...	...	...	...	5
(e) Total number of inspections of workplaces under Section III (i) Factories Act, 1937.	...	...	...	...	...	5
(f) Scheduled occupations followed by outworkers employed in premises in Dartford Rural District:	...	...	...	...	...
Making wearing apparel	...					5

Shops.

There are 597 shops in the Rural Area. The total number of inspections made during the year by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors of shops, other than food preparing premises, was 216. Action was taken to ensure that one shop was provided with heating to maintain a reasonable temperature.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse collection rounds have had to be revised by the Council's Chief Sanitary Inspector from time to time during the year owing to the progress in building new houses. The supply of ashes from Littlebrook Power Station for tip covering was stopped for six months in 1953. Ashes had to be obtained from other sources. The salvage collected during the year brought in a revenue of £484.

A new cesspool-emptying vehicle was put into service during the year, making a total of 4 vehicles engaged in this work.

LABORATORY SERVICES.

The following specimens were submitted for examination: -

To Public Health and County Analyst's Laboratories: -

Milk	...	...	...	...	29
Water	...	...	...	...	103
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	11
Faeces	...	...	...	...	1

To Laboratories of the Dartford Group of Hospitals: -

Meat	...	...	...	...	3
Faeces	...	...	...	...	150

—o—o—o—